

THE
LOCAL ELECTIONS.

BY A PROTECTIONIST.

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May I ask the reader to consider with me the important and interesting matters of which these few pages speak? They are plainly stated; great pains have been taken to say nothing but what is strictly accurate, and are what every resident of Ontario should be well informed concerning.

It is now nearly four years since the Mowat Government came before us for re-election. I believe I am warranted in saying—in directing your attention to the fact—and in asking you to remember and examine if it be not so—that that Government have fulfilled every promise of that date, and have, which is rare in the history of Government, more than fulfilled them, a number of new works, not then proposed, but very valuable to the people of Ontario, having been since inaugurated, some of them already producing excellent results, and others, promising equal advantages, about to come into full working condition.

It is natural (though, I think, considering the capacity of the Opposition, not very patriotic) that the gentlemen comprising it should desire to take the Government positions themselves. Let us see what their organ says for them—what cogent reasons and solid arguments it finds to support their cause. Their organ is the *Mail*, which gives almost every day in the year an article in their support, frequently in this manner: It names a number of ancient celebrities who have nothing to do with the question; adds a string of more modern and equally celebrated characters who have never thought or spoken of it; mentions, it may be, something concerning the wars of Europe or the elections in the States; and, while the reader is very undecided as to what it is all about, suddenly informs him that Mowat is a tyrant—not telling you how; and that an outraged and long-forbearing country must no longer endure him—not telling you why; winds up with nine or ten sentences of pure abuse, unadulterated with any meaning whatever, and ends the article. My readers must not think this is a burlesque, though it sounds as such. It is as correct a description of many of the articles in the *Mail* against the Mowat Government as I can give. And the full, clear and decided proof that it is so is simply this—that although

they have written unnumbered such columns, there are absolutely no charges to be extracted—all is blank cartridge—noise and nothing more.

If we take the speeches of the members of the Opposition we find just as little force therein. Not one of them, during the whole four sessions, has so criticised any Government policy—far less so stated his own—as to, I will not say, turn public feeling in his favour, but not even so as to excite any sensation worthy of note throughout the country. They have made continual little objections and small fault-findings, but as for any serious charge, it is not there.

The charges are on the other side—for it is, as it appears to me, clear that their papers and they themselves are trying, at the dictation of people in another province, to do ours serious injury. What little they have said against the Mowat Government, and something of what the people of Ontario have to say against them, will be stated in the few following pages.

I cannot in these few pages detail at length all the great works the Mowat Government are carrying on. They are fully given in the blue books of the Province, and show that our Provincial affairs have been well managed. Our courts and prisons are well cared for—life and property are as safe, perhaps safer, in Ontario than in any country in the world; a vast system of education is being well attended to by Universities, High Schools, Common Schools dotting the land in all directions—(these, if we use them, are the true sources of greatness). Of railroads, so many have been built that our country is chequered with them, frequently in consequence of the aid extended them by the Local Government; and it may very well be expected that, when the machinery of transit, and the understanding between buyer and seller are more fully developed, the farmer all through Ontario will get as good a price (merely deducting freight) for his meat, butter, fruit, and other produce, as if he lived close to the cities; and while he, in most cases, will get a higher price than now, the citizens, owing to the fewer hands the article has passed through, will pay a lower than they at present are charged. In the furtherance of this important object, as concerning some of these articles, it will be in the power, and is the intention of Government, to give direct aid—for instance, in the article of butter, the newly established creameries will, among other benefits, point out the way to secure this.

In their aid given to the development of the Province, many country roads have been built by Government through the newer lands, which shall in time become rich and fruitful country. And while we are speaking

of this, let us notice a fact not generally known, that settlement is under the Mowat Government making progress in these at a rate comparing favourably with Manitoba. From 1871 to 1881 Manitoba's population had only risen from twelve thousand to forty-seven thousand, while our Muskoka alone had risen from seven thousand to twenty-seven thousand, and had received a new settler for every 159 acres, while the other had only received one for every 230. The reason we compete so successfully is that our Government deal directly with the settler; the land in Manitoba has, unwisely, been sold to companies and speculators.

In addition to these our Local Government have planned and are carrying out several important measures I think more of than all, and which I will speak of presently.

Now, let us say a word concerning the Opposition. Could we entrust these important affairs to their management? I regret to say they do not appear to be sufficiently capable in any respect. While incessantly carping at Government concerning slight matters of detail, they have never laid down any distinct outline of what they themselves would do, and seem, in fact, to make it their chief claim for Ontario support that they call themselves National Policy men. No statement was ever more ridiculous. Being so or not makes no difference in an assemblage which has nothing to do with tariffs. But let me expose this little bit of hypocrisy. When a few individuals, years before 1878, commenced and agitated the National Policy plan—when for years they were sending numbers of articles through Canada on this question, they had no help from these gentlemen. If these gentlemen were Protectionists—if they were National Policy men—where are their speeches? where are their articles of that day? There are none. They took up the cry for election purposes, and now hope that, having been powerful at the Dominion elections, where it had meaning, it may perhaps be so in the local elections, where it has none.

A word further on the National Policy. I am a Protectionist, and always have been, for principle, not for party. I supported Sir John Macdonald last June on that ground, and because I considered it the most important question then at stake. I am utterly opposed to revenue tariffs in any shape or form, believing in home industries and in Canada for the Canadians. Sir John took that side. I supported the National Policy then for the good of the country, and I support Mr. Mowat now for the same reason. You must not suppose I am satisfied with the way that Policy is being carried out. It has done good—but the Dominion Cabinet have been five years at work, and have not helped the country one-fourth as much as

two years, properly used, might have done. I support the National Policy for all that ; it will grow and flourish when its pretended friends are passed away, and Canadians wonder how they ever endured them. Let me say that if true National Policy men had power at Ottawa, we would have had before now the right to make our own treaties, which was part of the National Policy ; we would have had the Pacific Railway, which was part of the National Policy, without making the syndicate a present of an immense portion of the country, which was not part of the National Policy ; we would have had the North-West settled, which was part of the National Policy, without making speculators a present of most of the rest of the country, which was not part of the National Policy ; we would have had factories, far more than are now seen, all through the land, which was part of the National Policy ; but care would have been taken that the woollen factories did not put shoddy in your cloth as some of them do, nor the sugar refiners put in quantities of glucose as they do, which was not part of the National Policy. And you would have seen the many millions of iron-work used for the Pacific Railway made here, which was part of the National Policy, and not made in foreign lands and brought here duty free, which was not part of the National Policy. But no more on this subject. I could tell you much more.

My reason for supporting Mr. Mowat is that he carries out works for the benefit of the Province—he is what I consider a Provincial Policy man, and is endeavouring to benefit its industries by special legislation, as I think each Province should. I take the plain ground of saying that Mr. Mowat has done much good, is doing good, and, that if he be left in power to continue to completion several plans now being gone on with, he will do more still. I oppose Mr. Meredith and his friends getting power, because through all their career they have never been able—nor apparently fit—to propound in plain words describing what they mean, a better Provincial Policy than Mr. Mowat's—nor, in fact, any distinct policy whatever ;—because the beneficial works introduced have been none of theirs, nor had at their suggestion, and because, while continually declaring that the present men are doing wrong, they are unable to point out any justification for their words.

I have heard the statement made that Mr. Mowat is likely to oppose the National Policy. Let me say one plain word. As a profound believer in the National Policy system, I would not desire better assistance on behalf of that policy than the very work Mr. Mowat's Government is doing here. In not one way alone, but in numerous ways, that Government

is working, as I shall show you, to give aid, in town and country, all through the Province, to those who toil in city and in field. In many ways they have aided the farmer to prosper, by commissions, by institutions, by loans. And have they not aided the cities? Why they have spent nearly twenty-five millions of money largely in the cities and towns, and add to that the railway expenditure, which but for them would not have been—it will double the money. Does all this not help the National Policy? Does it not give our factories twice the custom? That is the true way to help any national policy—make your people better off, and able to buy more—and Mr. Mowat is doing it. As to injuring it, look at the facts. He has been in power all through its existence. He has neither retarded, nor endeavoured to retard its operation.

WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED IF THE OPPOSITION GAINED ONTARIO.

At first, the Ontario Opposition were heartily with their Province in declaring the Boundary Award should be carried out; but when Sir John declared it should not, they too declared it should not. How they can, after such a piece of contemptible subservience, come forward for re-election, I am at a loss to understand. On the 3rd March, 1880, they voted that "the Award of the Arbitrators should be sustained." On the 9th March, 1882, they voted that the Award of the Arbitrators is "wholly nugatory and inoperative." What was the reason? Why, the Conservative Convention had been held in September, Sir John had made a speech, and the glowing Provincial colours of a Conservative foliage changed with that one September frost to the darkest anti-provincial hue.

The preceding paragraph shows us the Ontario Opposition actually, I am sorry to say, base their course on directions from Ottawa, and even change their position and renounce their former most distinctly expressed opinions at Ottawa command. Let us remember now that our principal property in Ontario, from which we draw a very large portion of our income, is what is called the Crown Lands, meaning, in fact, the sales of land and of timber. With care, we may for many years, indeed in perpetuity, draw a very large revenue from these. But suppose our Opposition friends obtain power, how long would the source of that revenue remain in existence? What would they do with our land and timber? We may form some idea, if we consider what that Government has done, whose style they are most likely to copy. They entered into possession of

the great North-West prairie land, and they have parted with it in every direction ; to every speculator who was willing to pay them a small sum, for the privilege of fleecing the settler, and every hanger-on to whom they owed some gratuity they could not otherwise conveniently pay ; till the whole territory, far in advance of the settlers' progress, is eaten up by these Ottawa-commissioned locusts, and at this moment, we are told on good authority, for the immense distance of seven hundred miles beyond Winnipeg, the intending farmer can find no Government Land. These are facts. But, one would think that they would fear loss of power at the next election. I can tell you former Conservative Governments did not hesitate on that account.

OUR FORESTS UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

On the contrary, there is a particular reason why our present Government should be continued in the care of the forests of Ontario. Canada, in common with the whole of North America, has been, since the first arrival of the white man upon our shores, far too recklessly engaged in the destruction of the forest. In our cleared lands, the agriculturist suffers from the impaired climate resulting from this cause ; and is likely to suffer much more if the same course be continued, while throughout our still remaining and yet large forests, the axe of the settler, of the lumberman, and the never-ceasing ravages of fire continue to obliterate the wood-land from the face of Ontario. The Ontario Government, much to their credit, have set themselves in earnest to remedy this evil. They have passed an Act, which I am sure you will acknowledge to be an excellent one, providing for the planting of trees along roads, and the dividing lines of farms, and they have secured valuable reports from the best informed sources, concerning the best means of preserving our remaining forests from fire, of retaining sufficient portions of them as lumber forests on the European system. Under that system, proper forestry regulations secure that there shall be a constant succession of timber, and re-establish or retain where economically possible, blocks of forest for climatic purposes. This policy, when carried out, will be of vast advantage to Ontario. It is calculated by those well acquainted with the subject that it will restore the regular succession of summer showers Ontario formerly enjoyed, with, of course, the natural fertility which always accompanies them ; and the Government which has conceived and commenced the work should, by all means, be allowed to carry out so excellent a project.

To show how necessary this action is in view of the loss by fire, let us

take up the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for 1882. There are nine reports of surveys. Let us see what they say in succession :—

Timber berths north of French River—"The greater part of my line passed through a burnt country ; all the timber has been killed." Township of Dunnet—"Over one-half of this township has been burnt." Township of Hugel—"The greater portion of this township has the timber destroyed by fire." Township of Ratter—"About one-sixth of this township has been burnt over, all the timber being utterly destroyed." Township of Kirkpatrick—"Nearly the whole of the township has been burnt over." Township of Hagar—"Bush fires have destroyed nearly all the timber." Township of Field—No mention of fire. Township of Dryden—"The greater portion of the timber has been destroyed by fire." Township of Wilkes—"Not injured by fire." In last year's report, out of fifteen surveyor's statements, eleven speak similarly of the ravages of fire.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY OF ONTARIO.

Now, let us say a word on this very important subject. This territory is withheld from us, and has been for some years, by the delay in ratifying the Award which declared Ontario entitled to it. The Ottawa Government now insists that the Award be thrown aside, and suggests that the matter be litigated anew before the Privy Council, saying that the present Award is not legal. That is not true. The Confederation Act gives us the right to increase or alter the limits of any Province with its consent. The fact is, it has always been a weakness of Sir John's to follow too subserviently the lead of Quebec politicians, jealous of Ontario. Really, there is no necessity for these squabbles of Provinces. The richer Ontario is, the better for Quebec, because we can and do help Quebec with our means in a thousand ways. At present, unfortunately, Sir John can make capital with some *Bleu* politicians by promising to keep our territory from us. Their last suggestion would keep it from us probably for several years—perhaps for ten ; for every step has to be consented to by all the parties, and while Quebec can be pleased by delaying, the Ottawa Government will delay its consent.

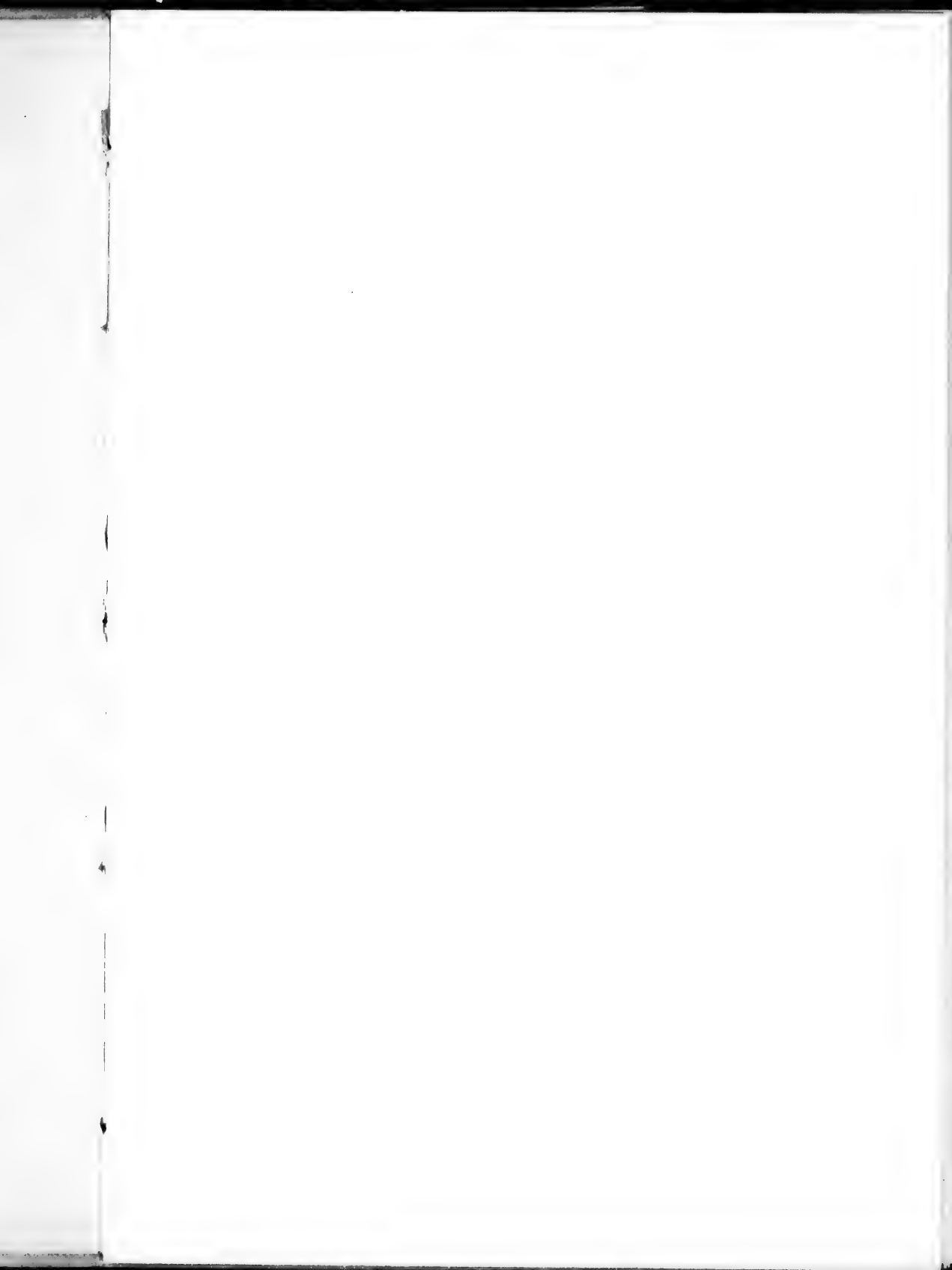
The object of this suggested reference can be nothing else but delay. Let us consider the position in which we should be placed. The reference, if made by all parties, must have the consent of the Ottawa Government, that of Ontario, and that of Manitoba. If at any step either of these choose to delay proceedings—for which a hundred excuses could easily be manufactured—the whole business must stop, must absolutely cease, till

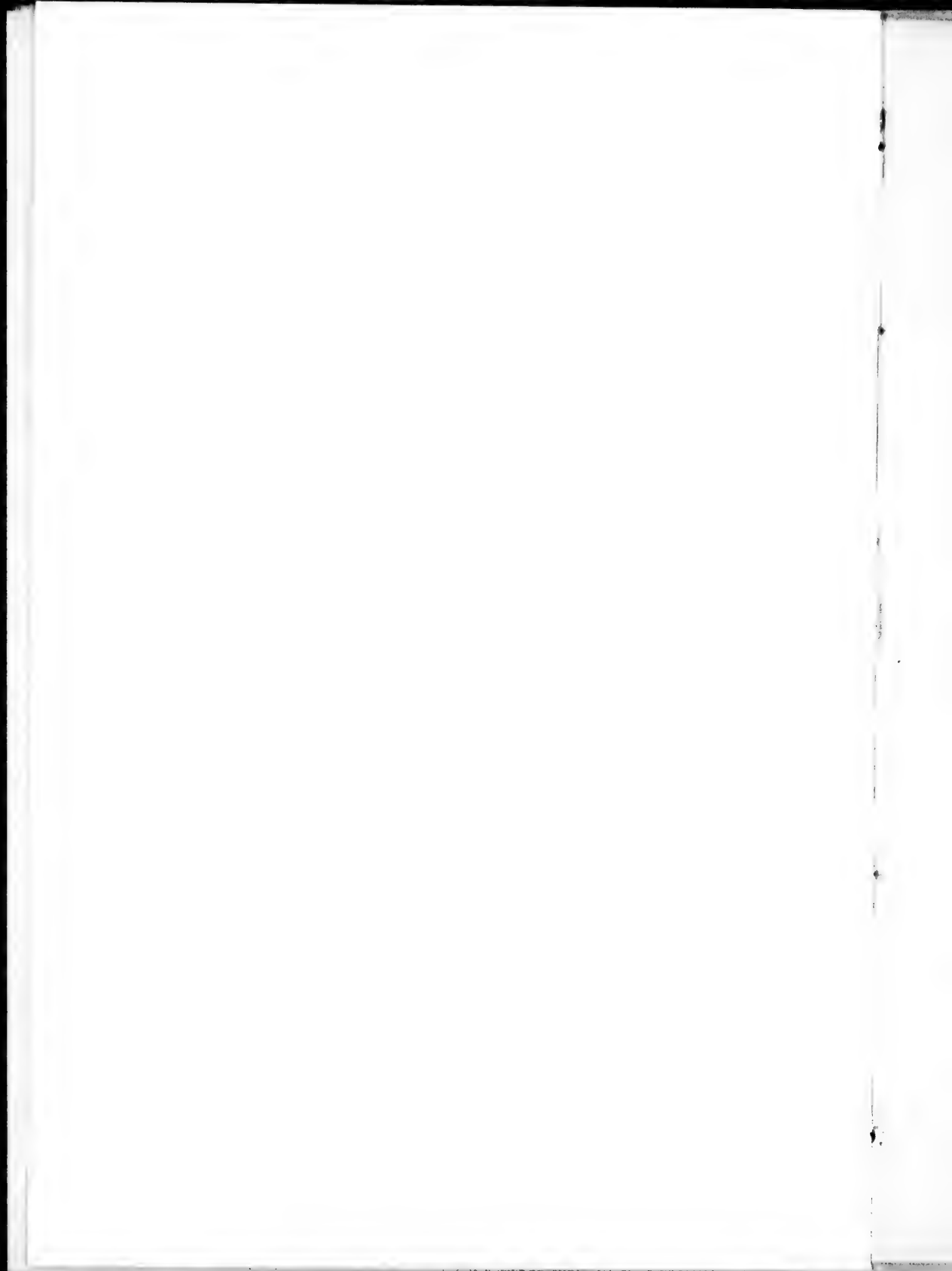
they choose to say they are ready. The Ottawa Government may delay the case a year ; then Manitoba may find some reason for not going on for another ; then the Ottawa Government may discover another obstacle, and between them they may keep up the process absolutely as long as they choose. There is no knowing how long proceedings may be spun out, and in the meantime, the territory will be utterly despoiled. It is necessary to take decided steps in the matter, and Mr. Mowat may be trusted to take them. But if Mr. Meredith, the nominee of Sir John, were to obtain power in Ontario, he may be equally trusted not to take them.

Mr. Meredith, in his last speech, quietly remarks that Mr. Mowat was willing to let the Award go for decision before the Privy Council. True, with this one proviso, that Ontario should have charge of the territory in the meantime. Mr. Meredith quietly left the proviso out. People of Ontario, do you wish your leader to be a man who could do this ?

Now, let us consider how this delay will affect Ontario. There is much valuable timber in the territory. It has been computed by people who should be good judges as being worth the enormous sum of one hundred and twenty millions of dollars—enough to pay all the expenses of our Province for thirty or forty years. This large quantity of very valuable timber—the only large timber reserve in all that great country till, perhaps, the distant Rocky Mountain slopes are reached—in a position where it will always command ready sale, and comparatively untouched by the lumberman or settler, offers, as yet, a most excellent opportunity not only for procuring timber, but also for maintaining the supply. If this reserve were at once taken in hand, and judiciously managed, the forest could be maintained in perpetuity, and a large supply of the best lumber yearly drawn therefrom.

On the other hand, if our awarded rights are longer withheld from us, or the reasonable proposition to give Ontario control till the boundary claim be finally settled, be still refused, if the claim must still lie for years in abeyance, the timber left till then will be but small. For in the meantime, the demand for lumber in the North-West is growing apace ; private individuals have commenced to cut ; lumbering operations will be carried on by rival and irresponsible parties (carelessly, as they always are in such cases), bush roads will be slashed through, piles of brush left in all directions, and there will be no one to prevent. Even now, we are informed the lumber is being taken by those who have no claim (it is said the Dominion Government is even selling it), and as soon as the plundering operations are a little further advanced, I will ask you to think what will happen, and consider





this in the light of the fire ravages spoken of in our last section. Remember that these timber reserves are in a dry and rocky country, partly prairie, and exposed to winds. The fires will certainly get in, and will as certainly run badly. Before Ontario's claim is acknowledged by the Privy Council, what is left standing will not be worth having.

In the meantime, this disputed territory is in a wretched state for want of proper jurisdiction. The Ottawa Government has magistrates there, Ontario has magistrates there, but no one knows in any civil proceeding which of them constitutes the proper tribunal, or which law governs the case. In surveys, in mining licenses, in a hundred other matters, there is no undisputed authority. There is no knowing who has power to settle such matters; representations have been made that bloodshed and murder are not unlikely to occur, and if some steps be not taken to settle the question of jurisdiction very serious results are sure to follow.

Let me here say a word about this land which is in dispute: Ontario has spent on it in surveys, administration, buildings and roads, about a quarter of a million. Colonel Dennis tells us that on the shores of Rainy River and Rainy Lake, in the territory which the Award gives us, there are 26,000,000,000 feet of timber—an enormous quantity. At this moment the Canadian Pacific Railway are advertising that their line thereabouts runs through valuable timber lands. Mr. Miller, a prominent lumberman, tells us that the mere stumpage value of this is close on \$130,000,000. Now, we know that the railway between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg is nearly finished; there will at once be an immense demand for lumber in these two places. And now, just at this moment, when we ought to be able to go in and take possession of the country, and get some return for our outlay, we are in effect told to wait a few years. It is monstrous!

If Mr. Mowat's Government be sustained it will be equivalent to a declaration by the Province that she values and means to defend her rights, and further proceedings may obtain them. If it be not, the whole amount of timber will be lost, and the development of the rest of the resources, said to be very valuable, prevented for a lengthened time. I consider Mr. Mowat should be strongly supported on this ground by all Ontario citizens.

THE LICENSE LAW.

It appears to me that if there be one thing more than another which proves the incompetence of the Opposition to Mr. Mowat, it is that they have committed the folly of attacking the License Law of the Mowat

Government, and would actually give the control again to the municipalities. I am sure you can all very well remember that before the present law came into force matters were in a very bad state, and are now very greatly improved. I have myself known places where hundreds purchased liquor illegally, Sundays and nightly, and the authorities seemed powerless to stop them. I have known half a dozen policemen stand outside, knowing what was going on, and not interfere, night after night. The fact is, influence can be brought to bear on members of municipalities which can very seldom be used with the class of License Commissioners appointed by Government. The liquor sold was bad. Men frequently staggered through the streets drunk—a thing not so often seen now. In six years the drinking places have decreased from about 6,000 to about 4,000, and committals for drunkenness have decreased nearly one-fourth. I think that a man would be committed now for far less than then, so that it is likely they are decreased one-half. Moreover, you all must remember the evil state of affairs when the Councils issued licenses—the lobbying, the favoritism, and much other disagreeable matter our Councils are now freed from. The law is cheap—the average of enforcing it has not been \$50 a year for each municipality—a great saving on the old way; it pays the municipalities better. They got this year \$270,000, when, by the old way, they would have got but \$100,000. There is no political favoritism in giving out licenses; this year 2,700 Conservatives got licenses to 1,100 Reformers. No Conservative who obeys the law fears to lose his license. Let us notice one striking fact. Since the Act has been in force about fifteen thousand licenses have been issued or renewed to Conservatives, and among all these in all that time there have been but half a dozen complaints, and those were found to be unwarranted. It is a very good proof of its working in the right direction that the Methodist Conference voted for its continuance.

I consider this Act and its results alone should secure Mr. Mowat the support of every one who wishes to see the sale of liquor properly conducted. I am no Prohibitionist, but I like to see the sale of liquor conducted respectably and legally. It is so now; those who desire to retrace the step should not get your votes.

A cry has been raised that this Act is unjust centralization—that power has been unfairly taken from the municipalities, to their weakening and injury. Why, not a single municipality has petitioned to have the power back again. They do not want it. When they had it, it worked a double evil to every one of them—an inferior class of tavern-keepers—

and a class of unlicensed liquor sellers—worked hard at elections to get in municipal officials who would grant them licenses—or shield them in selling without. Now, the Ottawa Government, by the mouth of Mr. Meredith, distinctly declare their intention to bring back all the old evils upon us. Here is what he said lately at St. Thomas :—"What we propose to do is to give back to the municipalities the rights of which they have been deprived . to give them the control of the liquor traffic, and the right to say who shall receive licenses, and to whom shall be entrusted the power of carrying on the trade."

THE STREAMS ACT.

The Dominion Government possesses a veto. By law, it had the power to disallow the above Act ; but to do so was the most deliberate act of tyranny—of determined partyism—ever attempted in Canada.

A rich lumberman—an influential Conservative—had improved a stream to float logs down. Above him another owned logs—cut on Crown Lands, under licenses for which he had paid—he wished to float down, but could not, of course, without using the improvements below. He offered to pay for the use of these, but the owner refused. The timber of the man above was worthless if he could not get it out ; and he applied to the Ontario Government. They, not for his sake alone, but for that of the dwellers on a couple of hundred other rivers here, passed an Act giving them a right to use such improvements on giving fair compensation. What else could they do ? To do otherwise would be to deed all the timber of Ontario to the men at the mouths of the streams. But the rich lumberman ran to Ottawa, interviewed the Minister of Justice, who came from another Province, and knew nothing of our local needs, got him to recommend the disallowance of the Act, and it was disallowed accordingly.

If we submit to such actions there will be no limit to their commission, and we may see, presently, numerous other Acts of Ontario disallowed. In the meantime, the first thing to place Ontario in a position to act in the matter is to return the Mowat Government.

The chief excuse made for disallowing the Bill was that it interfered with private rights. Private rights ! How it interfered was in this way—it interfered, as all legislation necessarily does, with what one man considered his private right to wrong another. As for the other objections, they are mere legal quibbles.

THE SURPLUS.

This fund is now about four and a half millions. It is often declared—"They have no surplus; it is spent." But the Opposition are, or should be, men of some capacity. Have they ever gone over the accounts, and showed, as business men, that it was gone, or almost gone? If they had, who could deny it? The plain facts would be there. It has not been done, and hardly attempted, except in allegations so destitute of proof as have merely excited contempt. Let me give you one fact, which you are all in a position to see is correct. Observe the sums Government have spent for very useful matters, which they need not have spent, as not being within mere Government business, and which, if they had kept, would have left them in hand a very large surplus indeed. They have given towards education in these eleven years over four million dollars; to assist the counties in criminal court business, nearly two millions; to care for sick and lunatic or vicious people, about four and a half millions; for buildings for them, and internal navigation works, nearly three millions; in encouraging agriculture, opening up roads, and assisting settlers, nearly three and a half millions; to clear off the municipal fund debt, over three millions; and to help railways, nearly three and a half millions. Notice how large a surplus might have been on hand if Government had chosen. They now give the figures in their accounts to show that they have the large amount mentioned yet on hand.

THE USE OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—WHAT OURS IS DOING.

There is a complaint that Canada is over-governed. But let me suggest to your consideration that our country has not too much governmental machinery, if it is employed usefully. The people are not many, but are very widely spread. There is an area of operation for each Government, quite as large as they can manage of local work, which no General Government can at all so well understand. How can the British Columbian or the Nova Scotian—as far from us as is the Gulf of Mexico—be fit to manage our local work, or we theirs? How could Councils do the work of legislation and administration which our Local Government does? We need Local Governments most decidedly; but only if they do the work the great area committed to them needs—find out its wants and relieve them—observe what its means of prosperity are and assist them. If they do that, we are not over-governed. Let us examine and we will find that Mr. Mowat's Government are

doing that work—well, earnestly and successfully. I do not direct your attention to the great mass of ordinary legislative or executive work, but I look to the other—the special work, the creative work, the work which tells whether Government are aiding us or no.

Let us look first to the work done by the Agricultural Commission. Here were Commissioners sent through all the land to find information. It is published in large volumes, and in them is to be found the experience and practice of the most esteemed and successful farmers in every part of the Province, in every branch of agriculture. Does the farmer wish to know what breeds of cattle are best? Here are the statements of the men who have tried them. Does he wish to know about ploughing, draining, building, reaping, feeding—anything in his line—the quality of land, water, wood, everywhere in the Province? Here is the information distributed through his own township, free of charge. I know what has been done in Britain and the States, and I am sure we have, for our means, far outstripped them in this one work—a work the most valuable to farmers, and therefore to towns as well, ever done in Canada.

Then the drainage. See what a vast acreage—half a million acres—Government have advanced means to secure to our food-growing area. Then the Bureau of Industries, a most valuable one, giving regular statistics of them all. Then the Inspection of Insurance Companies; I am sure, all who had experience of the old insecure mode, will heartily praise the new. Then there is the Agricultural College, doing a very valuable work in educating and experimenting for farmers. I know myself that, had there been such when I was farming, some of their experiments would have saved me thousands of dollars. Then there is another excellent work—the providing of Reformatories for women and children. All who know how much money is saved, and what better results secured in trying to reform these than in the old way of just sending them to gaol, must be glad to see this.

I ask you also to look what a valuable work has been just started—a matter concerning the actual bread and butter of the people—the creameries. It was grumbled at long, that our butter was largely bad, that it spoiled before being marketed, that it sold in Europe for grease or little better, that our cities here paid high for fair butter, while farmers far back got next to nothing for it, and had no encouragement to make it good. Government, instead of thinking the matter beneath it, came to the front and has established a number of creameries. Here the quality, the packing, the keeping, the sale, the transit—all will be seen to; the best methods taught without fee or charge to all who choose to learn them; and what is done there the

country at large will imitate. I consider it a work worth millions. I think a word ought also be said of the School of Practical Science, which gives free instructions to citizens in classes—a very valuable thing to have in the chief city; for these men go all over the land, and improve, invent, and assist in many ways to make useful articles otherwise necessarily brought from abroad.

Another valuable movement is the establishing of the Provincial Board of Health, which is already doing much, and will, when it gets thoroughly into the harness, do a great deal more. So far we have been giving ourselves rheumatisms with inferior houses, full of draughts, and poisonous with bad drainage; in spending our money on adulterated trash instead of wholesome food. Many other things of the same sort have combined to shorten our lives. It is not that cities and counties have not been willing to move to better these matters, but they have not known how. This Board will spread information; it will be acted upon in laws, and as a result, we shall get better value for our money, longer lives, and better health.

Now, what I have called your attention to all this for, is to show you that the Mowat Government is really using its powers to benefit the people; looking round for openings to assist us in our different trades and businesses; helping to develop the resources of the country in field and village, town and city, not entrenching itself behind the mere duties of jurisdiction, but working in a hundred ways for the good of the people all over the Province.

Is it likely the Opposition, if returned to power, would do as well? Would they do these things at all? If you go back to their record you will find—and all of you who have read the papers know—that they have opposed them at every step. But did they ever bring forward plans and policies of their own? Did they ever lay down a plan on which they would work if in power? I know of none. I believe simply they would just go, like good children, and ask Sir John what to do. I was talking to one of their best men last year, and said to him, “If you wish the people to place you in power, you should get a provincial policy drawn up, and if we like it better than what this Government are doing we will put you in.” He answered doubtfully, “Ah, I think the chiefs of the party always do that.” There is the whole story for you, and it gives you the fact—you would think it incredible if you did not know that Ontario was tied, hand and foot, in the very same way for many years before Confederation—that Mr. Meredith would do what Sir John told him, and that Sir John would

be induced to do what would please his French supporters. It appears to me that, for this reason above, Mr. Mowat should be strongly sustained.

Now, think that, for all the carefully planned and beneficial works I have mentioned, and all the great system of jurisdiction and legislation besides, preserving life, property and order throughout the whole Province, costs, out of Provincial funds, but seventy-five cents a year for each of us, and consider first, whether Local Governments are not valuable, when well managed, whether we are not cheaply served by ours, and last, having one evidently well managed and useful, directed by our own citizens, whether we had not better take care it does not fall into the hands of Mr. Meredith, to be managed at French-Canadian caprice.